

OPINION 2324 (Case 3493)***Haliplanella* Hand, 1956 (Anthozoa, Actiniaria): conserved by suppression of *Haliplanella* Treadwell, 1943 (Polychaeta)**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled under the plenary power that the generic name *Haliplanella* Hand, 1956 is conserved for a widespread sea anemone by suppressing the senior name *Haliplanella* Treadwell, 1943, which was first, through an error, used for a group of polychaete annelids, was later put into synonymy, and is now no longer used.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Cnidaria; Anthozoa; Actiniaria; Annelida; *Haliplanella*; *Haliplanella lineata*; sea anemones; worldwide.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the generic name *Haliplanella* Treadwell, 1943 and all uses of the name before that by Hand (1956) are hereby suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *Haliplanella* Hand, 1956 (gender: feminine), type-species by monotypy *Sagartia luciae* Verrill, 1898 (Anthozoa), is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *lineata* Verrill, 1869, as published in the binomen *Sagartia lineata*, senior subjective synonym of the type-species of *Haliplanella* Hand, 1956, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *Haliplanella* Treadwell, 1943 (Polychaeta) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology as suppressed in (1) above.

History of Case 3493

An application asking the Commission to conserve the name for a widespread sea anemone by suppressing the senior homonym *Haliplanella* Treadwell, 1943 used for a group of polychaete annelids, was received from D.G. Fautin (*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*); C. Hand (deceased) (*Bodega Marine Laboratory, U.S.A.*) and M. Daly (*The Ohio State University, U.S.A.*) on 14 April 2009.

After correspondence the case was published in BZN **66**: 312–316 (2009). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. Adverse and supporting comments were published in BZN **67**(2): 166–167; **68**(3): 204–20; **69**(2): 122–123.

The Case was originally sent for vote on 1 December 2010. The vote was cancelled on 6 December 2010, as per email of the Executive Secretary explaining that a new substantive comment was received just after the voting papers had been sent out.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2013 the members of the Commission were again invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **66**: 314. At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2013 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 18: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bouchet, Brothers, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Pape, Rosenberg, Stys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 4: Bogutskaya, Lamas, Lim and Minelli.

Split votes – 1: Grygier FOR (1), (2), (4); AGAINST (3).

Ng, Patterson and Pyle were on leave of absence.

No vote was received from Fautin.

Voting FOR, Rosenberg said that the application should have provided a statement of characters regarded as differentiating the taxa for which the neotypes were designated. Also voting FOR, Bouchet commented that he was more or less convinced by the taxonomic opinions defended in comments to this case, and it could well be that Case 3493 would ‘lead nowhere’. However the applicants (Fautin, Hand & Daly) had maintained their request that the Commission vote on the potential validity of the name *Haliplanella* Hand, 1956. He voted FOR their proposals as far as nomenclature was concerned, and he left it to sea-anemone taxonomists to evaluate the taxonomic validity. Voting FOR, Brothers said that the validity of the counter-arguments depended on the general acceptance of apparently as-yet unpublished taxonomic proposals and opinions; resolution of the homonymy could only provide greater clarity on the status of the names concerned whatever the taxonomy. Voting FOR, Winston said that supporting comments in BZN 69(2) made a clear case that adhering to priority would cause problems for coelenterate workers, whereas the annelid name was not in use and the possibility of its future use was unclear. Also voting FOR, Halliday said that he voted for that proposal, despite the adverse comments. Even if *Haliplanella* Hand, 1956 was a synonym of *Diadumene* Stephenson, 1920, it would not ‘disappear’, but would remain available, and might become valid again in the future. The rather complex and controversial taxonomic considerations in the published comments were not directly relevant to the matter of the homonymy, which was the substance of the proposal. SPLITTING his vote, Grygier said that the proposal to place a senior synonym of the type species of *Haliplanella* on the Official List, especially a subjective synonym and not the actual type species, was counter-intuitive. Additionally, this Case included no request for any particular ruling on the valid type species of the genus, nor any proposal concerning the specific name of the type species; it was therefore unclear, under the specifications provided in Article 78.4.2, why the type species should be entered in the Official List at all.

Erratum

In the text of the case there was a misprint on p. 314 obscuring the meaning of a paragraph. The correct text should read: ‘Although late in his life Hand came to share the opinion that the name *Diadumene* Stephenson, 1920 (type species by monotypy *Sagartia schilleriana* Stoliczka, 1869) is not universally applied to this species of sea anemone: *Haliplanella* continues to be used (e.g. Mire & Venable, 1999; Ocaña & den Hartog, 2002; Watson et al., 2008). Preliminary data we have gathered for a taxonomic revision of this group support *Haliplanella* as distinct from *Diadumene*. Moreover, a second genus, *Tricnidactis* de Oliveira Pires, 1987 (type species by monotypy *Tricnidactis errans* de Oliveira Pires, 1987), has been placed in

family HALIPLANELLIDAE, which would be invalid under Article 39 unless this application, first made in Case 2192, is granted.'

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Haliplanella Hand, 1956, *Wasmann Journal of Biology*, **13**: 210–211.

Haliplanella, Treadwell, 1943, Polychaetous annelids. *Carnegie Institution of Washington Publication*, **555**: 42.

lineata, *Sagartia*, Verrill, 1869, *Synopsis of the polyps and corals of the North Pacific Exploring Expedition, under Commodore C. Ringgold and Capt. John Rodgers, U.S.N., from 1853 to 1856. Collected by Dr. Wm. Stimpson, naturalist to the Expedition. Part IV. Actiniaria. [Second part], author's reprint of 1869, p. 23 [Communications of the Essex Institute, 1870, 6: 57].*